

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An optical network comprising:
2 first and second adjacent nodes;
3 a first fiber configured to carry information in a clockwise direction from the
4 first node to the second node, the first fiber having wavelength capacity allocated to working
5 and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the first fiber
6 being respectively assigned to first and second sets of wavelengths; and
7 a second fiber configured to carry information in a counter-clockwise direction
8 from the second node to the first node, the second fiber having wavelength capacity allocated
9 to working and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the
10 second fiber being respectively assigned to the second and first sets of wavelengths.

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